

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 16-26 are pending in this application. In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection.

By this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 20 to more appropriately recite the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that this amendment is being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, and 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Anderson et al.* (USP 6,498,623) in view of *Hashimoto* (USP 6,972,799); and rejected claims 20-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Anderson et al.* in view of *Date et al.* (USP 4,918,533). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Prior Art Rejections

In support of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1, the Examiner admits that *Anderson et al.* fails to disclose the changing device as claimed and relies on the teachings of *Hashimoto* to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of *Anderson et al.* citing to various portions of the Hashimoto reference. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of these references.

By this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite, *inter alia*, an electronic camera, comprising an imaging device which captures the sequence of images and outputs image signals for said sequence of images at a rate defined by an imaging cycle of said imaging device, said imaging cycle defining a maximum exposure period for said imaging device for the captured sequence of images; a changing device which automatically changes a default imaging cycle of the imaging device by doubling according to the brightness of the object, thereby changing the maximum exposure period for said imaging device for the captured sequence of

images, wherein the changing device doubles the default imaging cycle at least once when the brightness of the object is lower than the brightness corresponding to the default imaging cycle; and a controller which controls the display to display said sequence of images according to the image signals while the imaging device is capturing subsequent images, such that said display shows a live image of the captured sequence of images to enable determination of an image-capturing angle of view.

Claim 1 is intended to ensure the brightness of a live image by sacrificing the imaging cycle.

In contrast, the disclosure of *Hashimoto et al.* is directed to an auto focusing apparatus selectively operable in an ordinary mode and a high speed mode. *Hashimoto* seeks to speed up the AF process. As such, *Hashimoto* teaches away from the claimed invention that sacrifices a high-speed frame rate by lengthening the imaging cycle, as *Hashimoto* only recites speeding up the frame rate.

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that *Hashimoto* fails to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of *Anderson et al.* Even if the cited references were combined, the combination would still fail to teach or suggest all of the elements as noted above. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 16-19 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1 at least based upon their dependency on claim 1. It is further respectfully submitted that claim 20 has been amended to recite elements similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1 and thus claim 20, together with claims dependent thereon are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

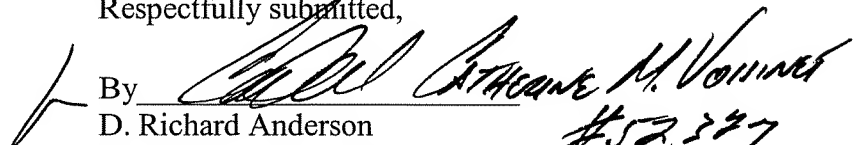
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet Reg. No.

52,327 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 13, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By  *D. Richard Anderson*
D. Richard Anderson
Registration No.: 40,439
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant

#52,327